



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2003

No. 104

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, ADM Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, Lord of the universe, You have done great things for us. You lend us heartbeats and protect us from dangers seen and unseen. You breathe purpose into our lives. Lord, forgive us when we travel the road of aimless living and major in minors or minor in majors. Save us from a cynicism that usually sees the glass as half empty. Help us, today, to discern Your will for us, and draw us together in unity. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 10:30 a.m., with the time under the control of the two leaders or their designees. Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on H.R. 2658, the Department of Defense appropriations bill. The chairman and ranking member were able to work through several amendments yesterday and we will continue the amendment process today.

There are several Senators who want to speak on the bill but the majority leader remains hopeful that we can complete action on this vital appropriations bill during today's session. Rollcall votes will occur throughout the day today.

The Senate will recess for the weekly party lunches from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DEWINE. Yes.

Mr. REID. Before the distinguished President pro tempore and chairman of the Appropriations Committee leaves the Chamber, I say that we all are aware of and concerned about—as always, impressions are made by things visual—I am very concerned today because the distinguished Senator from Alaska is wearing his Hulk tie. That is usually a sign of a very difficult day in the Senate. I hope that is not the case.

A couple of years ago we had an appropriations process with a most difficult end to an appropriations bill but we did finish it. One of the nicest gifts that was ever given to me—I will not say it was ugly but it was quite a tie—was given to me by the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS, as a result of the good work I had done. I have worn that tie a couple of times, although not for very long.

I do hope things go well on the bill today. I know it is a difficult bill, that he and Senator INOUE have tried to work through it, but I think he may be a little too optimistic that we are going to finish it today. When he wears the Hulk tie, we never know what is going to happen.

Mr. DEWINE. I say to my colleague that when I see that tie, I think it is simply a good indication that the Senate will get a lot of work done. That is usually an indication that my colleague from Alaska is resolved to see the job through.

Mr. REID. A lot of work done or else.

Mr. DEWINE. Or else, yes, that is absolutely true.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 10:30, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO LUCEILLE FLEMING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual, a woman of great vision and passion who has dedicated her life to helping people in their time of need. Her name is Luceille Fleming, and she just retired this past Friday, ending her over 14-year tenure as the first and only Director of the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

Luceille Fleming is an extremely intelligent, wonderfully caring woman who has given so much to the State of Ohio. To say that she will be missed is an understatement, because Luceille Fleming built this Ohio agency from the ground up and turned it into a nationally-recognized statewide drug and alcohol treatment network. Simply put, Luceille Fleming has spent the last 14 years saving lives. She led the effort to create a system that has helped countless Ohioans to help themselves, to reclaim their lives from all-consuming addictions.

While I have come to the Senate Floor today to speak about Director Fleming's contributions to my home State of Ohio, she actually came to Ohio from Pennsylvania. After graduating from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Director Fleming began her career as a communications specialist for a CBS affiliate in Harrisburg, PA. She

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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